



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: Friday, September 22, 2017

District: 05 – Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE ROUTE 1 PIEDRAS BLANCAS REALIGNMENT COMPLETED

New Alignment Should Protect Highway 1 for 100 Years from Sea Level Rise

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY– Caltrans today held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of the \$19.7 million State Route 1 Piedras Blancas Realignment project, which realigned a 2.8 mile section of Highway 1 to protect the roadway from a rising sea level and erosion along the coast in San Luis Obispo.

The realignment project moved the existing portion of SR-1 from up to 475 feet inland to better protect it from threats by erosion and damage from waves during storm events. The new roadway includes two twelve-foot lanes with eight-foot shoulders and a left turn lane at the former Piedras Blancas Motel, which is currently part of the Hearst-San Simeon State Park. All of the land west of the realigned highway has also become parkland, and 12 acres of off-site State parklands will be restored and enhanced to mitigate the impacts to natural areas.

The project will also create 3.5 miles of new California Coastal Trail. The added trail will be constructed by State Parks with \$1.4 million in funding from Caltrans. The trail will connect the existing network of bluff-top trails, and bicycles will be allowed to use either the highway shoulder or the trail.

“This realignment will serve the public for many years to come along this beautiful section of the Central Coast,” said Caltrans District 5 Director Tim Gubbins. The contractor for this project was Papich Construction of Grover Beach, CA.

For traffic updates on other state highways in San Luis Obispo County, motorists can call Caltrans District 5 Public Affairs at 805-549-3318 or visit:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/road_information.htm

(more)



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From left to right, SLO County Supervisor Bruce Gibson, Hearst Ranch Director of Agricultural Operations Ben Higgins, California State Parks, San Simeon District Superintendent Dan Falat, Caltrans District 5 Director Tim Gubbins and California Coastal Commission Transportation Program Director Tami Grove.



Members of San Luis Obispo County Bike Club enjoy wide shoulders included on new segment of Highway 1 in Piedras Blancas.

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